

M. L. Cs. not attending to the duties of Membership.

78. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) a list of members of the Legislative Council who have not attended to the duties of the membership for a period of 4 consecutive months; and

(2) what action have been taken by the Government under Rule 22 (2) of the Legislative Council Election Rules?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(1) M. R. Ry., Rao Bahadur P. I. Varugis Avl., and Mr. S. S. Koder.

(2) The matter was brought to their notice, and it is understood that they will attend the next meeting of the Council. If they do not attend, further action will be taken.

Representation for responsible Government.

79. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether after the inauguration of the Legislative Council the Government did not receive representations and resolutions requesting to introduce Responsible Government;

(b) when and from whom they have been received;

(c) what action has been taken by the Government in the matter;

(d) whether the Diwan President had stated in the Legislative Council that the question of introducing further reforms was receiving the attention of the Government;

(e) whether the Diwan has already submitted to His Highness the Maharaja any scheme of reforms?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Yes.

(b) 1. From Members of the Legislative Council on 3rd August 1926.

2. From other persons referred to in the answer to question No. 314 of the Legislative Session of 1104 on the dates mentioned therein.

(c) It is still engaging the attention of the Darbar.

(d) Yes.

(e) The correspondence between the Diwan and His Highness the Maharaja is confidential and cannot be disclosed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How long has it been engaging the attention of the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Ever since 1926.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How many years more is required in the opinion of the Government?

President.—That is not a supplementary question.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Who was considering it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Government.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether any proposals have been submitted to His Highness?

President.—The Hon'ble Member may ask questions for information and not for interpretation.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know whether there was, as a matter of fact, any correspondence at all on this matter between His Highness and the Diwan?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is only a difference in the matter of putting the question.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—We want to know whether there was any correspondence at all, and not the contents.

President.—That is no supplementary question.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—From the answer to sub-division (e), it is understood that there has been some correspondence. May I know whether there has been any correspondence between His Highness and the Diwan? It makes a presumption.

President.—The Hon'ble Member may give it any meaning he likes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What action has been taken by the Government on the representation submitted by the Members of the Legislative Council?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That is being considered.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—By whom?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—By the Government.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Who is Government after all?

President.—That is no supplementary question.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—On a point of order, Sir. I want to know whether this Council is entitled to ask for any information, as to whether there has been any correspondence on any matter between the Government and His Highness.

President.—The Council is at perfect liberty to ask for any information.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I want a definite ruling from the Chair whether the Council is entitled to ask for any information as to whether there has been any correspondence between His Highness and the Diwan?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The correspondence cannot be divulged.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I want no details.

President.—The Chair will study the rules and give its answer in due course.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—With regard to the Memorial submitted by the Members of the Council, may I know whether this has been brought before the attention of the present Diwan?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The answer is in the name of the Government, and the Diwan is an integral part of that institution.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether the representations of this House have been placed before His gracious Highness for His Highness' consideration?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I cannot find any distinction between that question and the questions put a minute earlier. I would only just repeat what I said before.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know the approximate date when the statement referred to in (d) will be materialised?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They cannot give a definite date.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—The probable date?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It won't be of any use.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Just for information sake. (*Laughter*).

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I cannot give an answer with any sufficient guarantee of accuracy.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether the authorities have done anything hitherto on the representations of this House?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The question is being considered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I cannot understand the meaning of the word 'considered'.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I don't know how to explain it better.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Has there been any submission of our petition or our representation to His Highness the Maharaja? I don't think there is any trouble in answering that.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Even that Government cannot say, because from the very fact that certain correspondence has passed or not, it is certain further inferences can be drawn and will be drawn.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether the Government laid this matter before the permanent Diwan?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That question has been answered. If this problem has been under the consideration of the Government from 1926 onwards, every officer who has occupied the place must have known it.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When was it brought to the attention of the permanent Diwan?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I don't know the exact date.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether he has passed any orders thereon?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No.

Registering the names of Applicants.

80. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether all the departments are registering the names of applicants for appointments;

(b) and if not, what is the reason for not doing so?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

Works sanctioned but not carried out—P. W. D.

81. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to mention the works sanctioned by the Government under the P. W. D. but not yet carried out; and what action is being taken for executing them?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—The question is vague. It does not specify any period and hence no definite information can be furnished.

Notices for tenders—publication in the Gazette.

82. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether notices calling for tenders published in the Gazette by the P. W. D. are in English and Malayalam, and if not in the latter language, which is the mother-tongue of the people, whether such notices will be published in Malayalam also so that tenders may be submitted by those who do not know English?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—These are published only in English.

There have been no request for such publication so far. Further as the estimates and all the other contract documents are in English, the publication of the tender notification alone in Malayalam is not considered necessary or to be of any use.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know whether that question itself cannot be treated as a request?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—There was no request from the prospective contractors.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Why not treat this as a request?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—The subsequent operation of the request would show no justifiable purpose. Everything, the estimates, bills and correspondence, is in English.